



COVID 19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Kerala

**COVID-19 – ADVISORY FOR INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED IN DENTAL
CARE SETTINGS– Reg**

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WHO has declared the COVID-19 epidemic affecting more than 195 countries as a Pandemic. Due to the inflow of persons from affected countries, Kerala state has strengthened the surveillance and control measures against the disease.

In the background of COVID-19 infection all Dental clinics and hospitals are advised to follow these directives.

- A. It is ideal to have a screening at the entry point to clinic itself to find patients who have returned from COVID -19 affected countries in last 14 days and those who have had contact with patients who have returned from COVID 19 affected countries in the last 14 days. It will be prudent to maintain a register of such patients, with their contact details to facilitate contact tracing if needed. If such patients are identified at the entry point, facilitate them to call DISHA helpline number.
- B. Screen for patients with respiratory symptoms at the entry point itself. They are to be encouraged to wear a medical mask . Encourage them to practice respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. Visual icons/signages regarding cough and sneeze hygiene, hand hygiene and environmental hygiene may be kept in the OPD.
- C. Rescheduling of appointments to be considered in elective cases in patients who have returned from COVID-19 affected countries in last 14 days and in those who have had contact with patients who have returned from COVID-19 affected countries in the last 14 days. Rescheduling should also be considered in elective cases in those with respiratory symptoms. Telephonic risk assessment prior to appointment scheduling is desirable.
- D. Reception area staff should use triple layer mask, gloves and should practice hand hygiene with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.

- E. All dental surgeons should use personal protective equipment, which includes a clean non-sterile long-sleeved gown, gloves, goggles and triple layer mask. While performing aerosol generating emergency procedures, N95 mask is mandatory.
- F. Elective aerosol generating procedures like those involving use of ultrasonic scalers, arotors and micromotors should be postponed.
- G. Splatter causing treatment procedures like [scaling, tooth preparations etc] are to be considered only in emergency/essential situations.
- H. All elective procedures are to be rescheduled and only emergency procedures should be performed as far as possible.
- I. Adherence to WHO five moments of hand hygiene is very important.
- J. In emergency cases, consider pre-procedure mouth rinsing with 1 percent hydrogen peroxide or 0.2 percent povidone-iodine.
- K. Limit dental practice to emergency/essential procedures till further instructions.
- L. All procedures are to be planned based on prior appointment basis to avoid overcrowding in the waiting area of the clinic.
- M. Ensure that the doctors and other staff in the clinic maintain personal hygiene and environmental hygiene at home. Consider a change of work clothes and a bath immediately on reaching home from clinic. Social distancing with regard to high risk groups at home like elderly, pregnant etc is desirable.
- N. All staff who come under high risk category [eg pregnancy, elderly above 65, co-morbidities etc] should desist from performing aerosol generating procedures if possible. At all points of patient contact, high risk category staff should adhere to standard and transmission based precautions.



Principal Secretary